

Light reading

Seattle City Light: The first carbon-neutral utility in the nation.

July/August 2012

Your Seattle City Light From the superintendent

Every season has its own challenges. In the fall and winter, wind brings lines down. In summer, heat can stress our equipment, especially the underground vault system. Power lines underground are designed to withstand water that could fill vaults, but as the air heats up, water recedes and energized lines can become brittle. Although we routinely check and repair lines, sometimes water contacts a frayed cable and causes an outage.

We encourage you to conserve energy in the summer to help reduce stress on our system, and to save you money. Here are some conservation ideas:

- Limit use of heat-producing equipment such as stoves and clothes dryers, especially in mid-day.
- Fix no-cook meals — salads and sandwiches — or cook later in the evening.
- Use a ceiling fan, which typically consumes 98 percent less electricity than most central air-conditioners. Also, try adjusting ceiling fans to turn counter-clockwise, which pushes down warm air trapped near the ceiling.
- Keep windows closed during the day, covered by blinds or drapes.
- Insulate your home to keep it cooler in the summer, warmer in the winter.



Read more about other ways to save energy and money on our website: www.seattle.gov/light.

**Superintendent
Jorge Carrasco**



Conservation news

Recycle reward

**\$30
REBATE**

FREE PICKUP

Since we began our refrigerator/freezer recycling program a few years ago, more than 9,500 older, energy-wasting appliances have been recycled and taken off the grid in our service territory. To schedule your pickup, be sure to see the refrigerator-recycling message at the end of this newsletter.



Energy Advisor tip

Window coverings can be more than decorative. They can also save energy. Installing white window shades, blinds or drapes help reflect heat away from a house. Highly reflective blinds can reduce heat gain by 45 percent. For details, email energyadvisor@seattle.gov or call **206.684.3800**.

Rebates & discounts

City Light offers rebates ranging from \$50 to \$1,200 on energy efficient appliances, as well as instant discounts on efficient light bulbs and showerheads at participating retailers. See a list of qualifying products, retailers, and rebate amounts at www.seattle.gov/light/conserve or call an Energy Advisor at **206.684.3800**.



Ductless heat pump

Heating can be the biggest electricity expense in your home. Replacing your electric wall heater or baseboards with a ductless heat pump can lower heating costs by 25 to 50 percent, and provide summer cooling. Customers who meet eligibility requirements can get a \$1,200 rebate. Learn more at www.seattle.gov/ductless or call **206.684.3800**.



Sun power

Nearly 500 City Light customers have installed their own solar-power systems. Solar panels produce clean, renewable energy, and can lower electric bills. Other benefits include:

- 30 percent of the cost may be deducted from your federal income tax;
- Washington state sales tax is not charged on systems under 10 kW;
- You may apply for a credit of up to \$0.54/kWh for the electricity produced.

Learn more at www.seattle.gov/light/solar, or call an Energy Advisor at **206.684.3800**.

City Light's 2011

Read about the utility's accomplishments and challenges of 2011 in the recently published City Light annual report, now online: www.seattle.gov/light.

From the field

"Tampering with meters to steal electricity is dangerous to the community and costs everyone money. Watch this short video to help prevent energy theft: <http://bit.ly/JaJZRr>."
- Vinod Kumar, City Light lineworker



Report benchmarks

The City of Seattle requires most commercial and multi-family building owners or managers to track their building's energy use, and annually report the energy performance. Learn more about deadlines, who is subject to the ordinance, how to comply, free workshops, and more at www.seattle.gov/EnergyBenchmarking or call 206.727.8484.



In your neighborhood: City Light @ work

Crews are in these neighborhoods, working to keep your lights on.

- Windermere: injecting silicone in underground cables to extend their life;
- SODO: relocating power lines to add capacity, serve tunnel boring machine;
- Harrison St./Aurora Ave. (east of Seattle Center): setting vaults to relocate lines;
- Mercer St.: moving lines underground, part of Mercer rehab;
- Laurelhurst (north of Webster Point): replacing underground cable to increase capacity;
- Occidental Ave. S.: relocating lines before viaduct replacement;
- Arboretum, West/South Seattle (south of Brandon St.): converting to LED streetlights;
- First Hill: adding poles, larger wire to increase capacity;
- South Beacon Hill: replacing wooden pole structures, adding distribution lines for increased reliability and capacity.

Visit our Web page and click on the  construction sign for details: www.seattle.gov/light/construction.

Contest on energy saving

Watch for details on our annual customer contest coming in the fall. This year, we're asking our younger customers for creative ways to save energy. Look for more information in the Sept.-Oct. issue of Light Reading, and check our website: www.seattle.gov/light.

Switch to e-bill

Go from paper to e-billing, and pay your utility bills with a credit/debit card, or by check. Go to www.seattle.gov/light and click on "Pay Your Bill Online."



Get out there

Join the Walk Bike Ride Challenge this summer and you could win a bike from Electric Bikes Northwest, a stay at the Pan Pacific Hotel, or other prizes. Use the online trip calendar, and get tips to help you bike, walk and bus more in July and August: www.seattle.gov/waytogo.

The American Alps Are Within Your Reach



Take a Skagit Tour or explore on your own.

This summer, visit the North Cascades for hiking, boat and powerhouse tours, and more. Visit www.skagittours.com and make your reservations.



Your Seattle City Light

City Light offers some of the lowest rates in the nation and the Northwest.

700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3200
PO Box 34023
Seattle, WA 98124-4023

www.seattle.gov/light  
www.twitter.com/SeaCityLight

Questions, comments or suggestions?
Call 206.684.3000 or contact Tell Seattle City Light at www.seattle.gov/light.

Editor: Connie McDougall
connie.mcdougall@seattle.gov

Newsletter available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Somali, Tagalog and Korean online or call 206.684.3000.

Skagit Tours photos: Rick Allen, David Astudillo, John Harter, Jess Newley, Elizabeth Penhollow, and Nellen Regier



Printed on recycled paper.



RETHINK. RECYCLE. REWARD.

\$30
REBATE

FREE PICKUP

Let us recycle your old, secondary refrigerator/freezer and get big rewards. We'll haul it away for **FREE** from your garage or basement and give you a **\$30 rebate**.

 **Your Seattle City Light**
seattle.gov/refrigerator
206.233.COLD (2653)



We Value saving you energy & money



Up to \$3,700 for energy upgrades available to City of Seattle homeowners.
Program ends soon. Sign up now!

Our Experts. Your Choices.
206.449.1170 | CommunityPowerWorks.org

 **Seattle's Home Energy Upgrade Program**